

Update

Christian Life Community

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THE CANADIAN COMMON MISSION

*The whole is greater than the sum of the parts. As Christian Life Community Canada we will act as communities, not as individual identities. We will develop leadership in CLC Canada that will move communities to *action* with special attention to youth/young adults. Through the apostolate of the Spiritual Exercises: Communication, Education, Social Justice in Action, we will strive to better love and serve the Blessed Trinity in our world community as the Canadian CLC.*

June 26 - 28, 1999.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Presidents:	Fran Morrison	Waterloo, ON.
	Elaine Regan	Toronto, ON.
Past Presidents:	Bob & Shirley Gatchene,	Kitchener, ON.
Eccl. Asst:	Fr. John English, S.J.	Winnipeg, MA
Nat. Community Coordinator:	Julie Dwyer-Young	Kitchener, ON.
Atlantic Region Rep:	Beulah Costain	O'Leary, P.E.I.
Central Region Rep:	Susan Tomenson	Toronto, ON.
Prairies Region Rep:	David Sax	Regina, SK.
Rockies Region Rep:	Marilyn Heaton	Lethbridge, AB.
Youth Rep:	Ray Comeault	St. Boniface, MA

October, 1999

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENTS:

We greet you in this the premier issue of **Update** of our presidency. We realize that this is a mammoth edition but it is crucial that you receive the important information from the recent assembly. Please note that on our front cover we have highlighted the new Canadian Common Mission statement which was accepted at our National Assembly in Winnipeg in June of this year. Congratulations to the more than 70+ delegates and participants from across Canada who unanimously endorsed this way of proceeding for CLC in the new millennium.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINNIPEG ASSEMBLY:

Grace of Assembly: We pray that we may better love and serve the Blessed Trinity in our world as the Canadian CLC

The beautiful setting of the Anglican and Catholic colleges of the University of Manitoba campus was the location for this first National Assembly in the western region. True western hospitality was evident from the outset in the way delegates and participants were warmly welcomed by the hard-working organizing committee who made many trips to Winnipeg airport. Those bunk beds were a challenge for those of us who are "up in years" (particularly if we drew the top bunk) but the gourmet food surpassed all expectations. No wonder this site was chosen to host the athletes of the Pan-American Games later that month. A highlight of this gathering was the presence of more than twenty youth whose honesty, enthusiasm and humour enlivened our time together.

How lucky we are that our Ecclesial Assistant John English, S.J. facilitated these four action-packed days. Fr. John never missed an opportunity to teach us some of the finer points of Ignatian Spirituality and kept drawing our attention to the movements of the Spirit. "Did you notice what just happened here?" was a much heard query.

"What are my hopes and dreams for this Assembly?" was the question posed for our spiritual conversation session on Thursday evening. After each shared, a flower was placed in the communal vase on our centrepiece. What a marvellous bouquet we made, symbolizing that "the whole truly is greater than the sum of the parts".

Friday was our Delegates' Assembly where the business of CLC was conducted. Outgoing presidents Shirley and Bob Gatchene summarized the growth they had seen in their four years of presidency. The issues of Group Guide training and Formation have received much attention

during their presidency. They left us with the affirmation “CLC has a prophetic vision and many gifts to offer communities, the Church and the world” and challenged the membership to continue to grow in formation and action for justice, becoming responsible and visible in the larger Church.

Regional reps called on the individual delegates to report on their home community. The diversity, of their stories, the wealth of action for justice, the gifts they have to share held our attention. Great things are happening across Canada. In upcoming **Update** issues we will highlight these stories because these are the threads that weave together our national community. We were grateful to have Fr. Patrice Proulx, S.J., Ecclesial Assistant for French Canada, report on the action and growth of communities in Quebec.

During the Business session amendments to the Constitution included:

- (1) that national president(s) will now serve for a term of three rather than two years,(with the opportunity for one further three-year term);
- (2) that General Councillors will now serve for a three year term; and
- (3) that National Assemblies will be held every five years (to follow the World Assembly).

Bob Gatchene lead us through the financial session revealing that CLC Canada has not to date met its national and world financial requirements. Looking at the donation grid provided by our National office it is obvious that the financial burden is carried by a few generous members. After the Delegates considered this serious situation General Council was urged to take action to remedy the problem. In the interim the delegates agreed that a minimum donation of \$25/year be requested from each CLC member in Canada, but that those who have been such generous supporters in the past be encouraged to continue.

On Friday evening the arriving CLCers who were participants in the Assembly were updated on the work of the Delegates thus far and were welcomed. Fran Morrison explained the concept of a common action for the Assembly. Each one attending had carefully (and gingerly in some cases) carried some ingredient to make a spaghetti dinner which was later delivered by the youth to Mother Teresa’s Missionary Sisters of Charity who work with the poor in Winnipeg. It was a delight to see the individual donations swell into the makings of a wonderful meal.(see Appendix 1)

Fr. Earl Smith and Elaine Regan then gave a brief introductory explanation of the calls to action of World Assemblies since 1982 (the year Canada was accepted as a national CLC). Through their slide presentation on the 1998 World Assembly and their reports of the ten-day gathering in Itaici, Brazil, we were able to feel the urgency of the call to Action for CLCers worldwide. A strong recommendation arising from this presentation was that every CLC community in Canada have a Guide and an Action plan for Mission by the year 2,000

On Saturday morning Fr. John began the process by tracing the involvement of local communities in the formation of the Canadian Common Mission.(Their reflections on the Itaici documents which had been circulated across Canada, had been given by General Council to a working group with the mandate to form a common action plan to move CLC Canada into the next millennium).

Through the entertaining and informative keynote speech of our own international visitor -Leah Michaud from Rome (formerly-P.E.I.) - we were given an opportunity to share in the work of CLCers around the world. Leah left us with recommendations and challenges for our national community. Take time to read her speech in full. (see Appendix 2).

The honouring of Jean Floyd's sterling years of service to CLC was a very pleasant break in the afternoon's activities. Through her years as National President and Business Coordinator, Jean's wisdom and enthusiasm for CLC have been a great gift. We truly appreciate all she has done.

Using the Ignatian process of private reflection and small group sharing participants had the opportunity to pray over the proposed common mission for Canada. It was an historic moment when Fr. John English announced the unanimous acceptance of our Canadian Common Mission. Later regional groupings came up with concrete suggestions for ways to put into action the common mission in their area.(see Appendix 3).

One of the initiatives of this Assembly was the establishment of a National Disaster Fund to enable Canada to respond in the name of CLC to disasters which occur worldwide. Such support will be channeled through existing relief organizations. To kick-off this fund the participants enjoyed a self-and community-sponsored walk through the beautiful campus grounds on a sunny Sunday morning. This walk raised \$860.00 to start the fund.

The spirit-filled liturgies, enriched by the simply wonderful music of local Winnipeg CLCers, the morning and evening prayer sessions, the excursion to "The Forks: on Saturday night (transported by school buses), and the incredible food, drink and hospitality provided by local communities all made this an extra-ordinary first Assembly in western Canada. Grateful thanks to the wonderful organizing team who made it all possible.

National Assemblies are costly gatherings but they provide the only opportunity (now only every five years) for members from across Canada to become friends with each other, to share stories, hopes, dreams, ideas and actions for justice. God is surely present in these encounters. The call to action, which emerged from the Winnipeg Assembly, sent all participants home with an eagerness to share with the members of their local communities and to commit themselves to action in their regions.

Now..... who wants to host the next one in 2004???

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENTS

A brief summary of our work on behalf of CLC Canada since our commissioning in June.

Thunder Bay: "Rooted in Christ" CLC community-, our first visit to a local community, . We were able to participate in the regular weekly meeting. One member attended from the 2nd community in formation in Thunder Bay. We were impressed with the hospitality, honesty and openness of the members and felt again the great joy that comes from being part of CLC, which allows one to quickly share where the Lord has been in our lives. The group shared their graced

history, and told us how important it is for isolated communities to have visits from other CLCers.

U.S. Assembly: Fordham University, in the Bronx. During one of the hottest weekends in July we, along with Susan Tomenson our Central Region Rep, attended this gathering. (Thank goodness for personal Air Miles!) The US Assembly participants were also working on the Common Mission statement. While there we took the opportunity to liaise with

- Fr. Larry Gooley, S.J., U.S. Ecclesial Assistant
- Mrs. Pat Carty, incoming National President
- Mary Nolan, World CLC Vice-President, who was the Keynote speaker at this assembly.
- Fr. Dan Fitzpatrick, S.J, CLC representative at the U.N.

(to explore ways to increase Canadian interaction at the international level) As a result of these discussions both the US and Canada came to the realization that sharing materials, cross-border meetings and retreat weekends, could benefit our two countries. Listening to the US experience of putting regionalization into action gave us insights into the process. We noted the diversity in age, culture and ethnicity that make up the U.S. CLC. We took along a supply of our formation materials which were sold very quickly. These excellent resources are much appreciated, and particular mention was made of the great work that John English has done in this field.

John English 50th Anniversary Celebration: A very happy event was the barbecue we helped to plan and host in Guelph to celebrate the 50th anniversary of John English's entry to the Society of Jesus, with 175 CLCers and participants in the Symposium on the Spiritual Exercises in attendance. The rain stopped, the sun came out, and women, men and children had a wonderful time eating, drinking and visiting. Special thanks to Connie Shaw, our favourite clown, who entertained the children. John declared himself "overwhelmed" with all the good wishes that poured in from across Canada and the U.S. This was a great big family party; we need to have more of these celebrations. N.B. In Winnipeg attendees were challenged to undertake one action for justice in John's name as a gift for this special anniversary: we look forward to hearing of your special actions so we can share these in future editions of **Update**.

Fidelis/Companions CLC groups:

Our own communities met for a retreat day held at a cottage to pray, share and celebrate, and get to know one another on a deeper level. We appreciate the support and prayers from these CLCers

Social Justice: When we meet at our office in Waterloo Julie, our National Community Coordinator, has kept us informed of her work for Development & Peace. Thanks to her we have attended meetings with our local M.P. regarding World Debt reduction; attended the local Soup Kitchen; and heard speakers from Guatemala and one of our own native elders speak to us about land claims. Locally we were happy to attend the annual Ignatian lecture given this year by Fr. Phillip Shano from Guelph who spoke about Ignatian Spirituality and the Ecological Crisis and the Spirituality of Simple Living at St. Jerome's University, University of Waterloo.

We appreciate all your good wishes and request that you keep us in your prayers.

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APPENDIX 1

1999 CLC National Assembly Youth Hamper Delivery

This experience began with a caravan of vehicles, full of youth members and food... a lot of food. The hamper was to be delivered to the Missionary Sisters of Charity. Most of the drivers were in need of a navigator.

While the exact location of our destination was foggy at best, our mission was not. This was a great opportunity for the youth to gather together to demonstrate one of the stages of formation within CLC groups: SERVICE. When we arrived, we were all able to see that this was not a neighbourhood full of material wealth. Many of the homes and stores were boarded-up and had certainly seen more prosperous times. Admittedly, I think everyone was nervous. However, as we approached the soup kitchen and saw the line of people who needed the food, it suddenly became clear how necessary our contributions were. Due to the gracious welcome of the Sisters, our nervousness passed and turned into a desire to serve.

While time prevented us from actually cooking and serving the food, we were able to drop off the hamper and receive gratitude from the Sisters. I believe that everyone walked away from this experience with a deeper desire to serve God through serving others.

Matthew Couture
St. Ignatius CLC (Winnipeg)

APPENDIX 2

ADDRESS OF LEAH MICHAUD, KEYNOTE SPEAKER, WINNIPEG ASSEMBLY

Do you know the adage..join the air force and see the world? Well, I did the next best thing by marrying a military man. I got as far as the East coast of Canada.....and stayed for almost 30 years. In the latter years, perhaps in an attempt to compensate for my greying head, I was fond of expounding on the fact that I still had places to go, people to see, mountains to climb and rivers to cross. Who would have known that at this stage of my life, I am doing all of the above.

And so it is that I am able to bring greeting from the World Executive Council and from the Secretariat. In turn, I will be responsible to share with them the good news of what is happening with CLC Canada. At the first meeting of the new ExCo in Feb., it was agreed that the visibility of the World ExCo at Nat. Assemblies was important....so, if at all possible, we each planned which assemblies we could afford to attend (there is no money in the Secretariat budget for this, nor in some of the ExCo members personal budgets). Each of us also assumed responsibility to keep current on the happenings of a cluster of countries to try to include as many perspectives as we can in any discussion at the world level.....fortunately, I may continue to remind them of the way we do things in Canada but they also tacked on the U.S.A as the second country I'm to keep in mind.

It is rather humorous that I find myself in Rome at CLC's "head office" when not too many years ago I was somewhat lacking in enthusiasm with the whole idea of "joining CLC". At the timeI perceived CLC as just another movement in the Church and I was involved in quite enough thank you! My husband Gilles caught the vision first and more profoundly than I.....and so, I grudgingly followed in his wake. To-day with great enthusiasm, I'm able to coin a new adage..... join CLC and be with the world.

You must be mindful that we've only been in Rome since last Oct.....so busy getting to know the ropes that there has been little time to get to know all there is to know about the World community. So, far from reading all there is to read, I can only claim to having dusted all the material once. What I can share with you are the bits and pieces gleaned from:

- a few visits to National Communities(Italian events, French Nat. Ass in Lyon, Luxembourg, Eur. Ass in Slovenia),
- the CLC communication networks (e-mail, national newsletters or publications)
- Secretariat team meetings(update,Fernando's trips)
- informal talks with visiting CLC members and Jesuits(new Provincials)
- frequent communication with theExCo members.

Itaici was my wake-up call in terms of an awareness and understanding of CLC as a world community. People of all colours, languages, ages, cultures united in Christ, rooted in Ignation Spirituality committed to CLC as their way of life, looked at our world together to identify where God is calling us to labour in this time in history. This specific identity, way of proceeding and mission is the way of CLC and is held in common regardless of where we find ourselves as individuals. With this experience of a world community, of meeting, listening and speaking with my extended family, came a newness of hope for what is being done and what can be done to hasten the reign of peace and justice in our world. And with hope came a greater sense of my responsibility for the other and for our world. This wasn't just another collection of individuals doing good things individually, but a gathering representing many others who desire to work together, to communally discern the apostolic action that will bring about the greater good..... for the greater glory of God.

Although new in the work at the Secretariat, I've noticed some common threads that weave through the world community. I'll speak about the six that seem to always be mentioned in a CLC conversation.

1) There is a growing awareness and desire to learn about how to live as one world community. In secular society, nationalistic tendencies are very pervasive and tend to serve as blinders when boundaries are threatened resulting in defensive attitudes and actions. The cry...not in my country.....can be an ugly response. At the French Congress in May, representatives from approx. 10 neighbouring countries were present (including Egypt and Cameroon) and they were invited to say a few words. Later in the work group, one after another spoke of the importance of seeing and hearing from CLC members from other countries to help get in touch with and understand the concept of a world community.

Examples: Luxembourg CLC..... Agnes...refugees...open boundaries.
Germany CLC.....Kosovo

2) There's an earnestness for formation. Understandable when you realize that CLC membership is solidly and almost exclusively middle class and drawn primarily from the white collar professions such as teachers, lawyers, health-care professionals, scientists, economists etc. who are not foreign to this way of proceeding. The risk is formation for its own sake and not the Ignatian peculiarity of "formation for mission". CLC, generally, has been known for being solid on formation but short on action.

In the area of formation, there is a great desire to access or deepen the experience of the Spiritual Exercises. Sadly, some countries lack resources. For instance....Lesotho does not have anyone in the country who can guide/direct the Spiritual Exercises. They have to rely on formation given by neighbouring countries...if and when they can afford the cost of travel etc.(although holding middle class status because of their education this does not necessarily enable them to do much more than provide for basic necessities). Such countries.... including Botswana, Sri Lanka or Korea (to name a few) would benefit from the development of a World or Regional Formation team to insure access to consistent and uniform formation particularly of group guides. In some of these same countries it is necessary to be very prudent in our correspondence as the political situation is such that identification with CLC could bring unpleasant repercussions.....still, the needs are made known, but, at present, the Secretariat lacks resources to finance the needed or requested formation.

You can read the report on the International Formation Encounters in the last Progressio to get a sense of what we can no longer afford to continue.

In South America, the Magis Program, a three year coherent "formation for mission" program developed in 1995, is bearing much fruit. On completion of the program, the participants return to their National Communities to share all that they have received. (multiplier factor)

3) There is also an earnestness for action. Understandable, as a charism of our common Ignatian spirituality....our particular disposition is "on rising from our beds, our minds are already in gear as to what needs to be done before our feet the floor". With so many good causes and great needs, it is easy to get caught up in a whirlwind of activity. The risk is action for action sake and not in the Ignatian understanding of responding to the discerned action that brings about a greater good and which has a multiplier effect. It seems that most CLCers, as individuals, are very involved in apostolic action. What is not so prevalent is collective apostolic action.

At the Congress in Lyon France, I stayed with one work group throughout the weekend.....everyone spoke of their involvement in numerous wonderful apostolic activities. But on the response to how God is calling me/us today.....the unanimous response was....I'm too busy and can't take anything else on. This raises the questions of trust, image of God and understanding what discerning the call of God is all about....Discerning what is currently being done....and perhaps needs to be dropped is not always understood or practised. It is the Ignatian way to look at all things good and test them.....or as we would say "evaluate the action". Perhaps what we credit or blame God for getting us in to.... is really our own doing.

Example: Tone from Slovenia.....from lawyer to mayor...to be where decisions are made....affecting the greater number. This is heard from Spain and Malta...the need to be involved in the political arena.

4)There's a desire for increased collaboration with the Society of Jesus except that no one is quite clear as to what this really means or how it looks.....seems as if there are lots of opinions but not a clear agreement on a working model between CLC and the Society...and perhaps this allows for a variety of different models to be used for different needs. There still remains a certain attitude of dependancy on the Jesuits and, indeed, some Jesuits as well as laity are known to want to keep this status quo. This is one area that CLC needs to mature in and assume responsibility and confidence in the realization that we are not second class citizens to the Society of Jesus in claiming Ignatian Spirituality as our own.

Again, if you have time to read or reread the last Progressio, the report by Maria-Clara Lucchetti Bingermer on Lay- Jesuit Collaboration will give you some sense of what is happening in Brasil in this area.

5)There is a recognition that at times, the greater good can be better accomplished by networking with others such as NGO's or other Ignation based groups. There are all kinds of people with expertise that are willing to share information.....there's no need to keep reinventing the wheel. Networking is much more energy efficient too!

Example: In the campaign for debt cancellation....please note in the "yet to be received" Progressio...the work done by Caritas and CIDSE (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity) of which our own CCOOP (Can. Cath. Org. for Dev.& Peace) is a member.....and Jesuits for Debt Relief. They've done the research...we need to do the reading and find a way to collaborate.

Again, to appreciate the presence and activity of what CLC is doing at the UN and with other like-minded groups....read the last and, soon to arrive, next issue of Progressio re child soldiers.

6)Communication scores high on CLC's common wish list or complaint list...in spite of living in an age of instant communications.... "we didn't know" or "we didn't hear" echoes around the world.....I've recognized in a big way, that there is a real problem having the same understanding of a particular word....such as collaboration, project, formation and mission. I must make this plea...please have patience and a degree of tolerance with translation efforts.....no country speaks / writes English, French, Spanish, the same way...and of course "my way is the right way" does not contribute much to the concept and dignity of being a world community.....or helps in communicating.

These six broad areas of World Community, Formation, Action, Collaboration, Networking and Communication have been the uppermost topics at most CLC gatherings or Assemblies. Some topics such as formation have received the greatest emphasis but cannot be divorced from the others. As we well know...when we speak of formation...it is in the Ignation concept of formation for mission!

I would like you to keep these six areas in mind as I share with you, a few examples/highlights of what is happening in response to Our Common Mission at National levels.

Countries are taking hold of Our Common Mission in ways unique to their reality. What appears to shape the way life is lived in each country may differ within the space of a few kilometres. But in some areas of the world there appears to be an identified, distinctive over-riding issuefor instance....taking the stance for the preferential option for the poor is clearly the front and centre issue in South America. It is said that.... Western societies are strong on process whereas Latins are strong on content and action.

In Africa, the crushing poverty underlies the critical erosion of family life victimizing young people by depriving them of any positive role models. Youth gangs, who disdain education and enjoy intimidating others, have become the new heroes and role models for the young. I am reminded of what a young CLC university prof. said... if a country's youth lose their hope, values, the ideal...the country is lost.

Once the wellspring of Christianity, Europe is quickly erasing God from the fabric of life....and as a result of the spreading secularization, there is a loss of hope.

At the European Assembly held in Slovenia on the first weekend of June, besides voting for a new Euro-team and voting to accept the Operating Procedures.....their focus was on developing a common action for CLC in Europe. They identified some areas of concern.....Formation, Justice, Family, Community, and Youth. The Euroteam's responsibility is to take all the input from the assembly workgroups and shape one or two common actions for Europe. There was great energy in the Assembly's affirmation that CLC must respond by living a clear and visible involvement in the Church and in civil life.

Asia is losing ground as Western culture is quickly displacing local cultures....consumerism is viewed as the bad fruit of capitalism. The difficulties are multiple, as you probably know from media reports. There are serious economic problems, religious tensions and environmental disasters.

Money culture, poverty of spirituality, erosion of family values, westernization, growing gap between the rich and poor....are but a few words that highlight the challenge for CLC in Asia.

Again, there are many requests for help in formation....but, as I've already mentioned, unless our financial state improves all we can promise is our prayers.

I will speak of how a few National Communities are going about discerning their response to the Itaici document. Listen for the echoes...

Poland: I had an opportunity to speak to Jan Soldaczuk from Poland two weeks ago in Slovenia. Jan was recently elected Vice-Pres. of CLC Poland and is responsible for "formation". He outlined the projected way of proceeding in the discernment of a common mission for Poland. The first step was to share what mission individuals are involved in at the local level. Then, a process is being developed to gather all the input from the local level so as to continue the discernment at the National level. Key to their process is that, although there may be different degrees of involvement in the chosen mission, the disposition they hope to arrive at is that all "be in love with the mission".

England/Wales began their process at the Regional level, praying with the document in order to "own" it. There was a need to paraphrase the original document (translated into English... so they said), then one section at a time was focused on. The section on family, under the heading Christ in Daily Life from Our Common Mission, was used as the content for a day of reflection. So far, two areas of concern have been raised that need addressing.....the issue of "availability" and the issue of the "greater" good. It seems that CLCers are already involved in mission and draw back when the subject comes up again..... interpreting working with Our Common Mission as being asked to "do something more".

CLC Germany has, for a long time, been a pillar of support both physically and financially for World CLC. The degree of commitment and service by individual members in the investment of time and personal resources including money to promote and sustain CLC is awesome. If this were show and tell time....I would ask Patricia or Ingeborg or Roswitha to speak about CLC as vocation.

CLC Germany's process of discerning a common area of action has led them to recognize that their common mission is formation. Under that umbrella....they offer the possibility of making the Spiritual Exercises in a

variety of ways. Approx. 100 persons work in this area as it has become common practise for parishes to offer the Sp. Exercises. As a matter of fact....now, some whole diocese are promoting the Sp. Ex. according to the Eccl. Ass. Willi Lambert SJ, the Church in Germany is being renewed this way. Reaching out to youth and the unchurched is also seen as a priority as well as promoting good relationships so as to foster better communications.

At the same time, other connected projects are being initiated such as the promotion of networkingCLC "same interest" groups, such as those working in financial departments of factories, are looking at mission from the perspective of their work place. Social outreach projects continue... such as providing financial help to projects in the Philippines, involvement in the campaign against land mines, abolition of the death penalty and the call for debt cancellation to 3rd World Countries.

After Itaici, CLC Kenya ExCo invited the National Community to spend a year of "focus on mission" resulting in two identified needs.....First: The establishment of Zaidi Centre in Nairobi (Kiswahili meaning "Magis" or "more"). This centre for Ignatian Spirituality, a collaborative venture with CLC, Jesuits and other congregations which follow Ignatian Spirituality, will serve as a resource centre primarily for helping lay individuals and groups grow in their Christian life. Secondly: A non-inclusive focus on service to youthwhich means that in accepting this focus, not every other mission endeavour is necessarily dropped or service limited only to this area but, rather, preference and sensitivity to the national priority is to be reflected when engaged in any service. The refining as to the specific area of service to youth continues, as the results of the discernment at local levels is gathered for further discernment at the National Assembly in October.

In their preparation for Itaici, Australia identified five areas of mission that resonated with what eventually emerged in the final mission document at the World Assembly. After Itaici, a proposal for a Common Mission for Australia was presented to be considered at a National gathering in January.

At the same time, a survey gathering data about the current reality of CLC....people, resources, ways of proceeding, structures, finances.....provided a profile of who CLCers are, their gifts and areas of interest. Data was also gathered on 14 various aspects of CLC life such as guide training and formation, current lay formation programs, outreach to the poor and marginalized. Such a broad picture of CLC would prove useful in knowing the current strengths, weaknesses and threats to work with and build on in visioning for the future.

At their "Gathering" in Jan. the Common Mission of CLC Australia was accepted outlining the areas of concern that will be their focus for the next four years. As Pres. Mary Nolan (also W ExCo Vice-Pres) pointed out in their National Newsletter.....the coal face of their mission is the marginalized.

There are gaps in my view of the World CLC....some of it has to do with my inability to read the various newsletters in Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Spanish, Polish, German, Flemish etc. etc.

Some has to do with the lack of National Communities in communicating what's happening in their lives and country vis a vis CLC. I'd be willing to travel and gather the news first hand but.....!

Now to respond to the question: How do you see the CLC Canada fulfilling the Mission/Vision of Our Common Mission.....

In Projects No 109 published in April of this year, the centre-fold section, titled Orientations and Annex were offered to National and local groups to aid in the movement towards concretizing the action called for by "Our Common Mission"

Our attention is drawn to praying with the Contemplation on the Incarnation. We are invited to join with the Trinity as they look on the world.....to be with them as they see all that's going on, to hear, to feel. ...to be with them as the decision is made and the Son is sent.

Our way is to enter into this contemplation of love that overflows into a concrete expression of that love...the sending of Jesus to the world. This is the quality of the motivating love that Jan spoke to me about....." being in love with the mission".

It seems to me that all the rest hinges on one crucial question.....the desire to be available to participate in this love affair. Because the capacity to hear, see, feel and to respond is directly related to the degree of our availability.

What limits availability ?.....a question of control.....of myself and my time

.....a question of fear.....what will be asked of me
.....a question of power....I am in charge...no one is going to tell me what to do

In any case.....being too busy, too tired, and facing too many demands.....Such are the arguments readily presented in our secular society that is rife with unfreedoms and promotes the "I'll do it my way" ideology. I formulate my call and stamp "made by God "on it.

Availability implies certain freedoms...freedom to listen, freedom to change, freedom to respond to the call.

In France, the word "disponible" more fully catches the idea of "being disposed to be available to respond ". It implies the same quality that is present in the mother who is sensitive and alert to the cry of her child in the night and leaps out of bed to do what she can or needs to be done.

After living the Itaici experience and spending the last 8 months listening and speaking about this Common Mission....the answer is clearer.

The distinct and universal mission of CLC is to hear the call and respond. Whatever the time, occasion, or country, the disposition of CLC is to be " disponible"to hear the call and respond! We don't have to search for our mission.....this is what it is.....to be so available that when we hear the call we go!

What identifies or qualifies the mission as distinctly and specifically Ignatian...please note...Criteria for Mission in Itaici documentation.

- 1]this is the most critical need
 - 2]this is the greater good
 - 3]this will bring about the greater fruit (multiplier factor)
 - 4]this is the most efficient means of helping the world
- etc.

The issue and, I might add, the stumbling block....is how to live this distinct universal mission in Canada for this next period of time? What shape will it take, what will it look like, where will the focus be, how and what do we organize.

First of all..."you learn by going"(Jack Milan)

As examples....other National Communities

Know the Canadian reality...what does the Trinity hear and see?....what and who are the voices?...meet them and listen.

APPENDIX 2

CANADIAN COMMON MISSION

Suggestions for Action from the Regions.

ROCKIES REGION: BC/ALBERTA (Marilyn Heaton)

- Have a regional Assembly: Meet socially by Lake in Nelson, B.C. Encourage more people to make Spiritual Exercises
- Development of Leaders
- Guide Courses
- Investigate use of resources: Hans Van Leeuwen/Spokane Jesuits

PRAIRIES REGION :SASKATCHEWAN/MANITOBA- (David Sax)

- Develop Leadership:
 - (a) Retreat Winnipeg & Regina (suggested date October 99)
 - (b) Working Committee (via telephone conference) to organize Youth & Adult delegations: single event – 2 separate streams
- Communication: Web Page (include Youth)
- Promotion of Spiritual Exercises:
 - Regina: Lay Ministries Formation Program – Alumni
Cuernavaca Youth Project
 - Winnipeg: Start resources for more spiritual guides
Try to organize local CLC gathering re Retreat & CLC Assembly

CENTRAL REGION: ONTARIO (Susan Tomenson)

- Regional Structure: continue process which has been started: (Chairperson, Bus.Coordinator, Ecclesial Assistant, General Council representative.)
- Communication: Find a (personal or vehicle) to develop leadership
- Action: on behalf of Catholic Education in Central region.
- Empower communities within region (an example of the Magis) to act in an area where no one else is acting.

ATLANTIC REGION: NEW BRUNSWICK, NOVA SCOTIA, PEI (Beulah Costain)

- Spiritual Directors: Good programs already exist in areas – continue to use these.
- Register disapproval of privatization of Health Care (happening already in P.E.I)
- Jubilee Debt Reduction
- .Work with Kosovo Refugees in Canada
- . Assist raped women refugees who are delivering their babies in Canada.

** Magis – We are being carried beyond ourselves.

CLC IS A WAY OF LIFE

What is/are the "hot" issues here?....what and who's cry pierces the night?..why?

In Canada we have many exampleshot issues..gas pipeline...free trade..Litton.....!!!!

Identify the most critical need in Can.

Plan the action

Time frame

Critique the action

Do it again (repetition)